



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,593	04/21/2004	In Kwon Jeong	INK-002	6718
30139	7590	09/29/2005	EXAMINER	
WILSON & HAM 2530 BERRYESSA ROAD PMB: 348 SAN JOSE, CA 95132			RACHUBA, MAURINA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

e

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/829,593	Applicant(s) JEONG, IN KWON	
	Examiner M Rachuba	Art Unit 3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-113 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-9 and 24-113 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 10-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/18/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of group II, species 1 in the reply filed on 15 July 2005 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 7-9 and 24-113 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 15 July 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 10-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakajima et al, US005908347A in view of Kajiwara et al, US006346038B1. Please note figure 1 and its description. '347 discloses first, second and third object carriers **12** positioned over respective first, second and third polishing surfaces **50**; first second and third object relay devices **60** positioned between the first, second and third object carriers, the first object relay device including a first pivoting drive mechanism, the first pivoting drive mechanism being configured to pivot to and from the first and second object carriers about a first pivoting axis to transfer the objects from the first object carrier to

the second object carrier; and a second object relay device **60** positioned adjacent to one of the first and second object carriers, the second object relay device including a second pivoting drive mechanism, the second pivoting mechanism being configured to pivot to and from one of the first and second object carriers about a second pivoting axis to transfer the objects to the first object carrier or from the second object carrier. Further, the first and second object carriers are arranged in a first linear manner, and parking positions of the first and second load-and-unload cups of the first and second object relay devices are arranged in a second linear manner such that the first and second object carriers are positioned to be substantially parallel to the first and second load-and-unload cups positioned at the parking positions and the distance between the first and second object carriers is substantially equivalent to the distance between the parking positions. '347 also discloses an object cleaner configured to clean the objects, the object cleaner being positioned such that a longer side of the object cleaner is adjacent to a longer side of an area defined by the first and second polishing surfaces. Note that adjacent is defined as: not distant: nearby¹. The longer side of the object cleaner is adjacent the longer side of the area of the first and second polishing surfaces. Further, there is a first object transport device **63** to transfer the objects to the first object carrier or to the second object relay device, and a second object transport device **63** to transfer the objects from the second object carrier. Note that second object relay device is positioned adjacent to the first object carrier such that the first object carrier is positioned between the first and second object relay devices. '347

¹ Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary copyright © 2005 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

does not explicitly disclose that the object carriers use load-and-unload cups to transport the objects. In a similar device, '038, figure 1 and its description, teaches the use of load-and-unload cups to transport objects between storage and a polishing device, and back to storage. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to have provided '347 with the load-and-unload cups taught by '038, column 2, lines 40-48, to provide a wafer loading/unloading device which is capable of performing positioning and mounting easily and in a stable manner when attaching the wafer to the polishing head and which can receive the polished wafer in a stable manner and pass it to the next step.

Conclusion

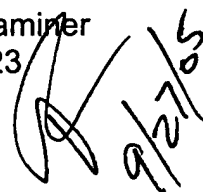
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Other similar object processing devices are cited of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M Rachuba whose telephone number is 571-272-4493. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M Rachuba
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723

Handwritten signature and date 9/27/05.